



# Ethics & Advocacy II

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# So, Why Do We Talk About You?

- ◉ Insight into vulnerability of victims
- ◉ Self-awareness is important to providing ethical support to victims.
- ◉ Having biases is normal, learning how to manage them is important!

# When Helping Becomes Harmful: Boundary Violations

- Why are boundaries important?
- What makes boundaries hard?
- Impact on victims for boundary violations
- Easier to identify warning signs of boundary violations early

## “Gray Flags”: Feelings/Behaviors

- Accepting calls at all hours without setting limits.
- Over-identifying with victim: assuming pain/happiness/anger
- Feeling angry at/resentful of victim
- Feeling emotional in response to client's anger/disapproval

# Gray Flags Continued

- ◉ Sharing personal details of your life that don't directly benefit the victim
- ◉ Feeling afraid of victim
- ◉ Allowing victim to violate pre-established guidelines
- ◉ Frequently thinking of the victim throughout day/night

# Red Flags

- Thinking you are the only person who understands the victim/nobody else can help
- Attending social functions at victim's request
- Inviting victim to social functions
- Reluctance to terminate when termination is appropriate

# Red Flags Continued

- ◉ Seeking advice/comfort from victim
- ◉ Performing tasks that are more appropriate for the victim to do
- ◉ Using VA-victim relationship in any way as a means of fulfilling your own emotional needs.
- ◉ Considering another role-friend, co-worker, employee

# More Red Flags

- ◉ Complaining about your co-workers, supervisor or work environment
- ◉ Failing to honor/respect victim's personal space
- ◉ Touching/hugging without expressed consent or when non-verbal communication indicates a lack of consent
- ◉ Feeling sexually attracted to victim
- ◉ Feeling sexually aroused in response to a description of sexual assault

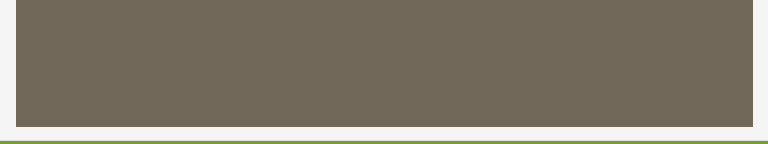


# Boundaries With Others: What Would You Do?

- CID Agent is inappropriate with the victim during an interview.
- Your Command Leadership reports not liking Restricted Reports during your SHARP in-brief.
- During a holiday party, you tell people about your role as a VA. Later, a friend approaches you and discloses.

# How Do You Avoid Boundary Violations?

- ◉ Know your personal biases/limitations
- ◉ Utilize supervision-SARCS can address any risks of boundary violation
- ◉ Explore why you're having problems with the victim
- ◉ Is it in the victim's best interest for you to continue as the VA?



*Being a good VA means knowing your limitations. Understand that you may not be effective with every client. It is not a sign of failure, but of wisdom.*